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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

DE HAAN, Pieter and BOS, Thomas J. *#3/ZDS*

Serial Number: To be assigned Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Filed: Concurrently herewith Examiner: To be assigned

For: PRELOADED IMPLANTATION DEVICE

Corresponding to: PCT/EP98/03712, filed June 16, 1998

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 20, 1999

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. These references were cited in the International Search Report for the corresponding PCT application. Copies of the Search Report and cited references are enclosed.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the last of (1) issuance of a first official action on the merits and (2) expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can determine any materiality thereof to the

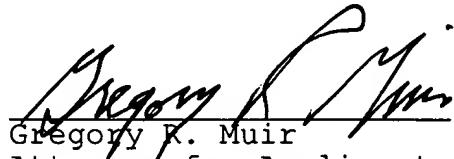
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claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be considered during the prosecution of this application and that the cited documents be listed on the front page of any patent issuing from this application.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2334 for any fee which it deems to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket NO. 0/97286 US

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